

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021, 2:00 PM
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, ROOM 310
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Order of Business

- A. REGULAR SESSION – Special Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisors Nathan Fletcher, Chair; Nora Vargas, Vice-Chair; Joel Anderson; Terra Lawson-Remer; also, Andrew Potter, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

ABSENT: Supervisor Jim Desmond

(This meeting was held virtually pursuant to Resolution No. 21-168, adopted November 2, 2021. Members of the Board of Supervisors attended the meeting via teleconference and participated in the meeting to the same extent as if they were present.)

- B. Discussion Items

NOTICE: THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ANY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE ITEMS INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COUNTY STAFF DO NOT LIMIT ACTIONS THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT RELY UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE BOARD LETTER AS DETERMINATIVE OF THE ACTION THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ON A PARTICULAR MATTER.

Board of Supervisors' Agenda Items

Agenda#	Subject
1.	ADOPTING CHANGES TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RULES OF PROCEDURE TO PROTECT FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PROMOTE EQUITABLE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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1. SUBJECT: ADOPTING CHANGES TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RULES OF PROCEDURE TO PROTECT FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PROMOTE EQUITABLE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Public discourse, dissent and critical debate are vital components of a healthy democratic institution. However, the rise in disruptive activity and the creation of a hostile and unhealthy environment at recent Board of Supervisors meetings requires the Board to consider changes to the Rules of Procedure to protect freedom of speech, and to promote equitable public meetings, along with not allowing a hostile workplace for our employees.

At the November 2, 2021 Board meeting, racist remarks were hurled at County staff. This language is intolerable and is not an isolated incident. There have been increases in regular meeting disruptions that have impacted the free speech rights of others and disputed the functioning of county government. Disruptive conduct and harassment in the Board Chamber have compromised the ability of all members of the public to engage with the Board through the public comment process. The abuse of the current Rules of Procedure needs to stop.

Today's action recommends that the Board approves amendments to the Rules of Procedure. The proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure are focused on ensuring that the Board's business is conducted in an orderly fashion and that all have an equal opportunity to observe and participate in the proceedings. The proposed changes also include the attachment of the Code of Civil Discourse of the National Conflict Resolution Center to the Rules of Procedure as an aspirational goal for public debate. These changes will become effective immediately.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER AND VICE-CHAIR NORA VARGAS

Approve amendments to the Board of Supervisors Rules of Procedure and adopt a Resolution entitled: RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

As publicly elected officials, our number one duty is to serve the people of San Diego. In establishing the Framework for the Future for San Diego County, we prioritized transparency and accessibility to improve public understanding of how the County operates and participation in shaping future priorities. These efforts towards accessibility are particularly important to reach those communities that have been previously disconnected from the County civic process. It is anticipated that through these changes to the Rules of Procedure we will ensure that the diverse voices of our community can be heard in an equitable manner, and as such, can provide input that is vital to a healthy democratic institution. Harassment and hostility toward members of the public and our county employees undermines our efforts to create an inclusive and equitable County government.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Fletcher, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, approving amendments to the Rules of Procedure and adopting Resolution No. 21-174 entitled: RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher
NOES: Anderson
ABSENT: Desmond

The Board adjourned the special meeting at 3:19 p.m.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of San Diego, State of California

Consent: Ruffier/Vizcarra
Discussion: Zurita

NOTE: This Statement of Proceedings sets forth all actions taken by the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors on the matters stated, but not necessarily the chronological sequence in which the matters were taken up.